

Washtenaw Board of Commissioners Information Requests Aging Sector Response • November 7, 2019

What is the nexus between aging and mental health services regarding the need for crisis services?

The mental health and aging service systems are separate, with mental health focused on crisis management and treatment, and aging services focused on prevention, access to mental health supports, quality of life and non-clinical services. The nexus with aging sector services generally centers on the following complimentary program areas:

- The preventive effects of home and community-based services
- Social isolation and non-clinical depression
- Living with dementia
- Facilitating access to services that help prevent or recover from crisis
- Education and training
- Family and kinship support

"I am a disabled senior and need meals on wheels to help me to continue living independently in my home."

How much is being asked for through millage, and what would it be used for?

An estimated \$8 million in senior millage funding is needed to make substantial progress in filling gaps in services and addressing identified needs with a preferred duration of 4 to 6-year renewal period. A 2019 survey of Aging Sector organizations identified needs in the following areas:

Senior Millage Service Funding Preferences

Access Services (21.8%)

Includes information and assistance, transportation, elder rights

In-Home Services (21.6%)

Includes case management, caregiver support, home care

Basic Needs (16.6%)

Includes community-based, prevention, emergency, housing preservation

Senior Centers (15.5%)

Systems (14.0%)

Includes administration, innovations, capital/equipment

Senior Nutrition (10.5%)

"Senior millage funds are needed to 1) address unmet needs, 2) expand the range of services, and 3) account for the 3% annual population and service demand growth."

Source: 2019 Washtenaw County Aging Sector Survey

What are the gaps in services?

Significant gaps continue to exist in both senior grant funding and services. In 2019, the McCalla Foundation received \$221,000 in requests but only allocated \$96,000 allocated, leaving a \$125,000 gap. Additionally, the grant requests made to the Washtenaw County Coordinated Funders has continued to far exceed the amount of funding available. Senior millage dollars are utilized in Kent County to fund the following county-wide services that are not are currently funded in Washtenaw County:

- In-home counseling
- Dental services
- Dementia care
- Fraud prevention
- Guardianship
- Hearing aids
- Home modifications
- Recreation therapy
- Money management
- Partner training
- Vaccination costs

“There are no state or federal funds available through the Area Agency on Aging 1-B to support senior center operations.”

What are the Unmet Needs?

The following wait list and gaps in services have been identified through the 2019 survey of Aging Sector professionals.

Wait Lists

- **5-25** potential Meals on Wheels clients are waiting for home-delivered meals in Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, Pittsfield Township, Superior Township
- **12** individuals are waiting for additional days of home-delivered meals and/or a second meal/day in Ann Arbor
- **136** vulnerable older adults throughout the county cannot afford to purchase homecare at private market rates to help them remain in their home and are waiting on in-home services through the Area Agency on Aging 1-B’s Community Living Program such as personal care, respite, housekeeping that are needed to help with activity of daily living limitations
- **70** individuals with disabilities need a nursing home level of care but wish to remain in their home and are waiting on home and community-based services through the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver program
- **30** individuals in the Washtenaw County Relatives as Parents Program are awaiting counseling on coping skills, community resource information and options
- **10-20** individuals are on a wait list each month for Senior Center Food Pantries in Lima Township, Lyndon Township, Sharon Township, Sharon Township and Chelsea
- **6** Handyman service requests are denied monthly due to affordability
- **1-2** adult day care requests are unfulfilled monthly due to lack of transportation **2** home care aide requests are denied monthly due to affordability
- **190** requests for accompanied transportation are unmet annually

“This week I put three more seniors on our Meals on Wheels wait list. If there were transportation, two of them could come to a congregate meal site instead.” – A Local Home Delivered Meals Program Director

Gaps in Services

- Ypsilanti Senior Center needs A-Ride vouchers for those who cannot afford \$3 per ride
- Requests for transportation are outside the scope of offered transportation
- Only one-third of county senior centers are open full-time
- Home safety deficiency identification and mitigation services (minor home repair and equipment) are only available in two (2) county zip codes
- Many outlying areas of the county have no home delivered meal service
- Kosher, DASH, Asian, gluten free and vegetarian special diet meals are not equitably available throughout the county
- Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels has one 0.8 FTE social work position to but needs 1.5 FTE to provide more comprehensive, wraparound services for clients to help them age in place
- Both Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels and Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels (YMOW) are at or near capacity, preventing them from seeking new clients and needing to add an additional route(s)
- YMOW has assessed a monthly need for 2-6 cases of liquid meal supplements
- The YMOW Personal Care Equipment and Supplies Pantry is able to assist less than 50% of the individuals who have been identified with unmet needs
- Many senior centers are too small to accommodate the demand for programming and need additional classrooms/square footage
- Subsidized extended out-of-home respite beds
- Vision and hearing-impaired services

“A woman came into the center with her seeing eye dog. Our intern spent many hours trying to find solutions for her. She couldn't do laundry in her building because the machine had a touch pad. We found that Hope clinic could help her with that but then she had trouble with transportation. We could not find solutions to many of her problems.”

What are the social consequences of not helping older adults?

Diminished potential for aging in place. An AAA 1-B study of being on wait lists found these consequences for people who never got services after two years:

- Five times more likely to be placed in a nursing home
- 31% higher mortality rate
- Family caregivers three times more likely to say their caregiving responsibilities interfere with their ability to work

Consequences of inadequate nutrition and increased social isolation due to limited availability of Meals on Wheels:

- Increased dependence on avoidable health care services
- Increased risk of falls
- Increased moves to more restrictive living settings
- Poorer health outcomes
- Lower quality of life
- Increased social isolation

“As a person suffering from dementia was leaving our memory café she said, “I love coming here and I am better when I get home.”

What are the economic impacts of not caring for older adults?

- Most Aging Sector spending stays in Washtenaw County, and the largest portion of spending is for labor. The exception is the congregate and home delivered meals program spending on food. However, over 75% of Michigan’s HDM providers report that 75% or more of their food used to prepare meals is purchased from Michigan-based sources.
- Generally, retirees provide \$4 in revenue for every \$3 spent on them through government services, according to a study by University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business economist David Denslow.
- Seniors spend 88% - 92% of their monthly income within 30 days of receiving it, mostly locally. With a medium age 65+ household income of \$60,000 in 2020, the senior population will inject approximately \$4.2 billion into the Washtenaw County economy.
- An analysis of the return on investment for the resource advocacy/systems navigation/benefits access work of Catholic Social Services found that they were able to generate \$21.28 in benefits for older clients for every state/federal dollar used to fund the program. Doubling their capacity could generate an additional \$1 million in health-related services and benefits for clients, most of which would be injected into the county’s health care systems. Older adults waiting for in-home services numbered 184 in 2018.

“Since the Great Recession, the following services have been eliminated and not restored by the Area Agency on Aging 1-B: out-of-home extended respite, and vision impaired services.”

What are the impacts on agencies and employment of sector?

The economic impact of increased home care spending can ripple through the state economy and generate “multiplier” effects. A study conducted by the University of Indiana for the AAA 1-B utilizing the Regional Input-Output Modeling System (RIMS II) found that for every \$36,000 allocated for in-home care, a new job is created. In addition, the funds return to federal, state and local governments in the form of income, property, business and sales taxes.

What is the impact on townships – amounts of \$ taken for budgets for services

There are two main sources of local contributions to senior programs:

- Senior Center operations
- Meals on Wheels
 - Ypsilanti Township: \$10,000 a year
 - Superior Township: \$2,500 a year
 - Pittsfield Township: \$2,500 a year

“Meals on Wheels helps to remove the worry for both me and my family about eating healthy.”

Peer-county funding support comparison - 12 largest counties (excludes Wayne).

County Support for Senior Services in Largest Michigan Counties				
Rank	County	2020 60+ Population	County Annual Funding Total	Sources
1	Oakland	313,075	\$796,000	General fund: \$600,000 in-home; \$98,468 AAA 1-B match; \$98,000 support coordination
2	Macomb	220,126	\$1.8 million+	General fund: \$58,850 AAA 1-B match, \$1.75 million veterans millage
3	Kent	136,626	\$11.1 million	\$11.1 million senior millage
4	Genesee	103,697	\$6.3 million	\$6.3 million senior millage
5	Washtenaw	75,877	\$521,304	\$27,493 AAA 1-B match; \$493,811 Washtenaw Coordinated Funders (partially funded by Office of Community & Economic Development)
6	Ingham	58,255	N/A	No millage
7	Ottawa	64,345	?	8 cities/townships have local senior millages - amounts unknown
8	Kalamazoo	57,347	\$4.5 million	\$4.5 million senior millage
9	Saginaw	51,615	\$2.9 million	\$2.9 million senior millage
10	Livingston	51,083	\$146,000	General fund: \$11,926 AAA match; \$85,000 in-home; \$60,000 adult day
11	Muskegon	43,805	\$2 million	\$2 million senior millage
12	St. Clair	44,415	\$3.6 million	\$3.6 million senior millage
13	Monroe	40,467	\$4 million	\$4 million senior millage

What is the effect of services on population beyond services?

Family Caregivers

- Economic impact
- Caregiver health
- Financial strain
- Caregiver burnout

Employers

- Lost work time/productivity

Hospital and Nursing Home Discharge Planners

- Inadequate access to community supports contributes to poor outcomes and readmissions that result in health system fines
- Both St. Joseph Mercy and Michigan Medicine hospitals have been penalized with reduced Medicare payments for excess hospitalizations